

## Man's Greatest Need is God's Greatest Deed, Part 2 - Acts 13:20-31 - February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- We sort of join Paul's sermon, "already in progress," while he and Barnabas are in Pisidian Antioch, on their first missionary journey
- This is the Apostle Paul's longest recorded sermon. There's a reason why Luke, by the Holy Spirit, included it in the writing of the Acts.
- Paul touches on, and speaks to, how God has met the greatest needs of every man, woman and child, back then as He continues now.

- We looked at three of these last week, and we'll look at three more today in the second part of this teaching series here in Acts 13.
- My hope is that this teaching would minister to us, God's great love for us, and remind us how much God loves us and cares about us.

- 1. Encouragement (Verses 14-16)** Paul seizes the opportunity to speak in the synagogue when asked if he had an encouraging word.
- 2. Provision (Verses 17-18)** Paul reminds them how God provided for and even prospered the Israelites while they were in Egypt.
- 3. Protection (Verse 19)** Paul then tells them how God protected the Israelites by overthrowing seven nations in the land of Canaan.

### **4. Leadership (Verses 20-22)**

20 All this took about 450 years. "After this, **God gave them judges** until the time of Samuel the prophet. 21 Then **the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul** son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. 22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

v20 Paul then goes on to tell them that after all this taking about 450 years, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet.  
v21 He then says that God even gave them a King like the other nations because that's what they wanted. Thus, Saul ruled for 40 years.  
v22 After removing Saul, he made David the next King who was a man after God's own heart doing everything God wanted him to do.

"A true and safe leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the press of external situation. Such were Moses and David and the Old Testament prophets."  
J. Oswald Sanders "Spiritual Leadership" p14

**Romans 13:1** Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. NIV

### **5. Salvation (Verses 23-26)**

23 "From this man's descendants **God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.** 24 Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. 25 As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.' 26 "Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent

v23 Paul tells them that from David's descendants, God brought and gave to Israel the Savior He had promised, and His name is Jesus.  
v24 He then tells them that John the Baptizer was Jesus' forerunner who preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel.  
v25 He then shows how John points to Jesus by asking them who they thought he was and that he wasn't worthy to untie Jesus' sandals.  
v26 He addresses them as brothers, children of Abraham, and God-fearing Gentiles saying he was sent with this message of salvation.

- The Apostle Peter describes the need for salvation as our supreme aim in this life of faith...
- **1 Peter 1:9** ... for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. NIV

### **6. Proof (Verses 27-31)**

27 The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him **they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read** every Sabbath. 28 Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. **They are now his witnesses** to our people.

v27 Paul then tells them that they didn't recognize Jesus and thus condemned Him which fulfilled the very prophecies they read weekly.  
v28 He goes on to say that even though no grounds were found for the death sentence, the Jews asked Pilate to have Jesus executed.  
v29 When they had carried this out, they actually fulfilled the prophecies written about Jesus, that He would be crucified and buried.  
v30-31 Paul then tells them that God raised Jesus from the dead, and He was seen by many witnesses for many days who testify of this.

**2 Peter 1:19a** - We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, KJV